

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 01769 152133Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /056 W  
-----160904Z 097343 /10

R 152107Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4804  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 1769

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JM  
SUBJECT: POLITICAL STRUGGLE WITHIN JAMAICAN CABINET AND RULING PNP

1. DOUGLAS FLETCHER, FORMER JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., TOLD DCM IN BRIEF CONVERSATION ON APRIL 15 THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS RETURN TO JAMAICA SEVERAL YEARS AGO, HE IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT JAMAICA'S POLITICAL FUTURE, I.E., THE MODERATES IN THE CABINET AND THE RULING PNP ARE FINALLY "FIGHTING BACK". HE SAID THAT THE MODERATES HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE NUMBERS BUT ALSO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN LAZY AND UNPREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER OR "DO THEIR HOMEWORK". THEY ARE NOW WORKING TOGETHER "AND BURNING MIDNIGHT OIL". THIS WAS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT AT THE RECENT PARTY CONFERENCES IN OCHO RIOS AND AT MANDEVILLE. HE ALSO SAID THE LEFTISTS HAD EARLIER BEEN PERMITTED TO "RUN WITH THE BALL" WITH THE PRODUCTION PLAN AND HAD MADE A SHAMBLES OF IT. THE MODERATES ARE NOW "GETTING IN THEIR LICKS" AND THE PRODUCTION PLAN MAY AS A CONSEQUENCE MAKE SOME SENSE. "THAT'S ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR THE DELAY IN THE COMPLETION OF THE PLAN." HE CONCLUDED WITH THE COMMENT  
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THAT THE LEFTISTS HAD "EVEN LOST ARNOLD BERTRAM (MINISTER OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING, CULTURE AND FESTIVAL) AND DUDLEY THOMPSON (FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NOW MINISTER OF MINING, ENERGY AND NATIONAL RESOURCES)."

2. COMMENT: FLETCHER REMAINS CLOSELY LINKED TO THE GOVERNMENT IN A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL WAYS

AND ALSO STILL IS A PNP ACTIVIST. MUCH OF HIS INFORMATION ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE INNER CIRCLES OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT UNDOUBTEDLY COMES FROM HIS SON, RICHARD FLETCHER, WHO IS MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AND PROJECTS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. HOWEVER, THE ABOVE CONCLUSIONS MAY BE A LITTLE PREMATURE. FLETCHER ETENDS TO OPTIMISM AT ALL TIMES ALTHOUGH HE HAS NEVER SEEMED AS EXUBERANT AS ON THIS OCCASION. HE PROMISED TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS DURING A MEETING NEXT WEEK.  
GERARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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